

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

RSR-01 /123 W

----- 089897

R 171130 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6169

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 708

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MI, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND MALAWI; FRELIMO
ACTIVITIES

REF: A. BLANTYRE 675 AND B. BLANTYRE 678

1. IN KAMUZU DAY SPEECH MAY 14, PRESIDENT BANDA FLATLY DENIED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES OCCURRED. HE SAID PRESS REPORTS UNDER INVESTIGATION AND THERE THREE POSSIBLE SOURCES: (A) FREE LANCE JOURNALIST; (B) RESIDENT EUROPEAN WHO NEVER ACCEPTED FACT AFRICANS NOW IN CONTROL OF COUNTRY; (C) FOREIGN MISSION IN BLANTYRE WHICH WISHED TO CAUSE TROUBLE AND CONFUSION BETWEEN MALAWI AND PORTUGAL.

2. BRITISH MILITARY ADVISOR TO MALAWI ARMY TOLD DATT MAY 16
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HE BELIEVED NO CLASH OCCURRED; POSITION OF BRITISH ADVISORS IN ORDANCE AND SIGNALS DETACHMENTS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO KNOW IF CLASH TOOK PLACE. BRITISH ADVISOR CONFIRMED MALAWI ARMY DEPLOYED FERRET ARMoured CARS TO CHIKWAWA AREA MAY 4 BUT THOUGHT THIS WAS PRECAUTIONARY MOVE IN LIGHT OF RADIO REPORTS.

3. PORTUGUESE CHARGE (PROENCA) TOLD COUNSELOR MAY 16 NO CLASH OCCURRED BETWEEN MALAWIAN AND PORTUGUESE FORCES AND THAT HE CONVINCED NO FRELIMO INCURSION TOOK PLACE. HIS EMBASSY WAS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENT AND SO FAR THOUGHT STORY WAS COMPLETE INVENTION. CHARGE SAID HE DISCUSSED MATTER BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT BANDA DURING KAMUZU DAY RECEPTION AND BOTH AGREED PRESS REPORTS HAD NO FOUNDATION OF FACT.

4. PROENCA WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNTIL MAY 13 HE WOULD HAVE AGREED WITH PRESIDENT BANDA' S STATEMENT MAY 4 (PARA 5, REFTEL B) THAT BOTH INTERNATIONAL ROAD FROM SALISBURY TO ZOBUE AND RAILROAD HAVE BEEN FREE FROM ATTACK IN RECENT WEEKS. HOWEVER ON MAY 13 SERIOUS ATTACK TOOK PLACE ON RAILROAD BETWEEN MUTARARA AND MOATIZE IN WHICH TWO LOCOMOTIVES AND NUMBER OF FREIGHT CARS DAMAGED. PROENCA ASSERTED PORTUGUESE HAVE " PROOF" ATTACKERS CAME FROM MALAWIAN TERRITORY AND RETURNED TO MALAWI. ROAD FROM TETE TO ZOBUE HAS NOT BEEN ATTACKED FOR WEEKS. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IS HOPEFUL THIS IS RECIPROCAL GESTURE OF GOOD WILL FROM ZAMBIA FOR PORTUGUESE HELPFULNESS WITH ZAMBIAN TRANSIT TRAFFIC, I. E. THAT ZAMBIANS HAVE PRESSED FRELIMO TO DESIST FROM ATTACKS ON ROAD. HOWEVER, THEY ACKNOWLEDGE QUIET MAY BE ONLY NORMAL LULL WHILE FRELIMO RESUPPLIES FORCES. BURDETT

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To: AF
CAPE TOWN
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